

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, re-examination and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.111, and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-26 have been amended to recite a tire. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to delete the "usable for ..." language and to replace "can be" with --is--. Further, claim 26 has been amended to delete the word "reinforcing." Moreover, claims 6, 16-19 and 22 have been amended to further improve their form, which do not narrow the scope of the claims. In addition, claims 42-48 have been added. Claims 42-28 are supported by the specification, for example, in paragraph [0147]. Claims 27-41 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-26 and 41-48 will be all the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth at page 2 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 26 is not indefinite. As noted above, Applicants have amended claim 26 to delete the word "reinforcing." Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

II. Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-13, 26-28, 32, 33, 37 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,996,663 to Garro et al. for the reasons set forth at page 2 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims as amended are novel and patentable over Garro et al. for at least the following reasons.

Present claim 1 recites a coupling agent comprising a polysilylated organosilicon compound which is at least bifunctional and is grafted on to the elastomer by means of a sulphur group having a polythiosulphenamide function.

On the other hand, Garro et al. is relied upon as disclosing tire treads produced from silica containing elastomers with polysilicon containing coupling agents. Garro et al. does not disclose or suggest the present invention.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

III. Response to Claim Objection

Claims 14-25, 27-31, 34-36 and 39-41 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but are indicated to be allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 1, from which claims 14-25, 27-31, 34-36 and 39-41 depend, directly or indirectly, has been overcome as set forth above, and thus the objection should be withdrawn.

IV. Conclusion

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any

questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (202) 452-7932 at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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